

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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STATE FOR CU/EE

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, CZ
SUBJECT: MARTIN KRATOCHVIL: ADMISSION BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC

1. LEADER OF POPULAR PRAGUE-BASED JAZZ/ROCK MUSICAL GROUP, JAZZ Q, MARTIN KRATOCHVIL, IS CURRENTLY PURSUING ADMISSION AS A STUDENT AT BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC DURING 1975-76 ACADEMIC YEAR, OR POSSIBLY DURING 12-WEEK SUMMER SESSIONS EITHER IN 1975 OR 1976.
2. KRATOCHVIL FACES SOME DIFFICULTY WITH CZECH AUTHORITIES IN SECURING REQUIRED EXIT VISA, BUT IN EMBASSY VIEW HAS REALISTIC CHANCE OF SUCCESS, PARTICULARLY IF STAY IN U.S. IS LIMITED TO THREE MONTHS.
3. KRATOCHVIL IS SUBMITTING THREE RECORD ALBUMS AND TWO PRELIMINARY TAPES OF TWO ALBUMS IN PROGRESS IN SUPPORT OF HIS APPLICATION TO BERKLEE AND IS SEEKING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THAT INSTITUTION IN MEETING THE DOLLAR COSTS OF HIS STUDY, ESTIMATED AT DOLS 1500 NOT INCLUDING TRAVEL EXPENSES, FOR THE 12-WEEK COURSE.
4. KRATOCHVIL IS PREPARED TO FINANCE HIS OWN INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL BUT IS CONCERNED WITH SECURING ADEQUATE DOLLAR RESOURCES TO COVER HIS MINIMUM NEEDS WHILE IN BERKLEE.

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5. REQUEST CU/EE REACTION TO KRATOCHVIL AS PARTIAL IV GRANTEE,

EITHER DURING FY 75 OR FY76. RECORDS, TAPES AND OTHER MATERIAL DESCRIBING AND PROVIDING EXAMPLES OF KRATOCHVIL'S PROFESSIONAL WORK ARE BEING AIR POUCHED UNDER SEPARATE COVER. KRATOCHVIL IS DELAYING SUBMISSION OF HIS FINAL APPLICATION MATERIALS, INCLUDING APPLICATION FOR ANY AVAILABLE FINANCIAL AID, UNTIL RECEIPT OF EMBASSY RESPONSE RE POSSIBLE U.S. GRANT SUPPORT. HE HAS ALREADY INFORMED BERKLEE OF HIS ATTEMPT TO ENLIST AID OF AMEMBASSY PRAGUE, AND THEREFORE EMBASSY WOULD PREFER TO LET HIM KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE HOW MUCH USG FINANCIAL SUPPORT HE COULD EXPECT, BOTH FOR THE SAKE OF HIS PROMPT APPLICATION TO BERKLEE, AND ALSO TO AVOID IMPRESSION THAT AMOUNT OF SUPPORT IS "NEGOTIABLE". BERKLEE WOULD THUS BE FREE TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO COVER REMAINING EXPENSES FULLY ON MERITS OF KRATOCHVIL'S QUALIFICATIONS, RATHER THAN ON BASIS OF ANY CONSERVATIVE BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS.

6. EMBASSY PROPOSES PAYMENT OF KRATOCHVIL'S DOMESTIC U.S. TRAVEL EXPENSES, PROBABLY NEW YORK-BOSTON-NEW YORK, PLUST WHATEVER PORTION OF THE ESTIMATED DOLS 1500 IN COSTS AT BERKLEE BE BUDGETED FROM CU FUNDS ALLOCATED TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA. SINCE CU HAS PROBABLY WORKED WITH BERKLEE BEFORE, EMBASSY ASSUMES OPPORTUNITY EXISTS FOR PRELIMINARY CU DISCUSSION OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR KRATOCHVIL WITH STUDENT AID OFFICE AT THAT INSTITUTION.

7. INTERIM CU RESPONSE WOULD BE WELCOME AND USEFUL, ALTHOUGH KRATOCHVIL HAS REPEATEDLY AFFIRMED HIS FLEXIBILITY ON TIMING OF STUDY PERIOD IN INTEREST OF PRESERVING HIS BEST POSSIBLE CHANCE FOR HIGHLY VALUABLE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING.
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